1941

1939

Carmarthen Rural Sanitary Authority

48th Annual Report

OF THE

Sanitary Conditions of the Carmarthen Rural District

FOR THE YEAR 1939

BY

ELFYN T. JONES

B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CARMARTHEN:

Printed by the "Welshman" Printing Co., Ltd., Lammas Street.

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PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of the Carmarthen Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual report for the year ending December 31st, 1939, which is in the form suggested by Circular 1961 (Wales).

In view of the increasing pressure of work in the public health department the Welsh Board of Health consider that interim reports need only be made for the year 1939. Therefore, this report must appear brief as compared with those of my predecessors, but records are being carefully preserved so that after the termination of the war, a full report for the whole period can be made.

My arrival in Carmarthen coincided with the outbreak of war—a most difficult time at which to take up a new appointment, and I wish to gratefully acknowledge the work carried out by all the members of my staff, and to thank the members of the Council for the encouragement and support they have given me.

I wish to thank my colleagues and their staffs for their co-operation and help.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ELFYN T. JONES,

Forty-Eighth Annual Report

OF THE

Sanitary Conditions of the Rural District

OF

Carmarthen

Medical Officer of Health:

ELFYN T. JONES, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Clerk to the Rural District Council:

F. GWYNNE LEWIS, Esq..

Engineer and Surveyor.

W. E. Jones, M.I.M. & Cy.E., M.R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspectors.

Wm. WILLIAMS, M.S.I.A. A.R.San.I. (Meat Certificate). (Appointed Senior Sanitary Inspector September, 1938).

W. Emlyn JONES, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I. (Meat Certificate).

H. E. WILLIAMS, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I. (Meat Certificate). (Appointed, September, 1938).

CLERK TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

D. J. Lewis.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA AND STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

The area is preponderantly rural in character, only that portion bordering on the coalfields being non-agricultural. The boundaries have been unaltered during the year and the area is 202,733 acres. Tht Registrar-General's estimate of mid 1939 population is 27,680, which shows a decrease of 120.

The number of inhabited houses, according to the rate-books was 7,665. This is an increase on last year's figures of 27.

The rateable value is £61,864 and the sum represented by a penny rate it £257 15s. 4d.

The chief occupations are:—

Agricultural and associated occupations.

Coal Mining.

Quarrying.

Vital Statistics.

		Total	M	F	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population
Live Births	Legitimate ...	423	242	181	16.2
	Illegitimate ...	25	11	14	
Still Births ...	...	23	14	9	
					Death Rate
Deaths ...	...	392	188	204	14 16

Deaths From Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	... 0.00	0.0
Other puerperal causes	.. 3.00	6.3
Total	... 3.0	6.3

Infantile Mortality (under 1 year of age).

All infants per 1,000 live births—84.6

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—82.4

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—2.2

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—44

Deaths from Measles—Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—1

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)—3

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the area during the year was 392. Males—188. Females—204.

The crude death-rate is 14.16 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, but this would not permit a true comparison with the crude death rates in other areas. Such factors as the average age of persons living in an area must be accounted for and to do this the Registrar-General provided a factor to standardise the death-rate, making comparison between the areas more correct.

Comparison with other Areas.

	Death Rate per 1,000 population.
England and Wales	12.1
126 County Borough and Great Towns ...	12.0
148 Smaller Towns	11.2
London Administrative County	11.9
Carmarthen Rural District	13.7

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

At the outbreak of the War, the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service established itself in South Wales. It is hoped that this laboratory will be opened at Carmarthen in the New Year. This laboratory will carry out Bacteriological investigations in Public Health.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

Mr. W. E. Jones, Engineer, has provided details of work carried out during the year. He reports as follows:—

Llanarthney and Llanddarog Water Supply Scheme.

This scheme, which was commenced at far back as December, 1936, was completed during the early part of 1939 and brought into operation. Considerable delay was caused by the Contractors going into liquidation, necessitating the inviting of fresh tenders to carry out the uncompleted works.

The works comprised the construction of a high level Service Reservoir having a capacity of 180,000 gallons, pumping station with electrically driven automatically controlled pumping plant in duplicate, and the laying of 6in., 4in., and 3in. diameter asbestos cement and steel distributing mains. The system now supplies the villages of Gorslas, Cefneithin, Foelgastell, part of Cross Hands, Drefach, Porthyrhyd and Llanddarog.

Poposed Supply to Llangendeirne, Four Roads, and Meinciau.

No further steps have been taken by the Council to carry out the scheme to supply these villages, plans of which were completed in 1937.

Parish of Llanboidy—Cwmfelin Mynach Village.

Early in 1939 negotiations were completed for the acquisitioning of additional land around the source of the existing supply to Upper Llanboidy Village to ensure protection of the source from pollution, and steps were taken to invite tenders for the laying of new mains to replace the 2in. cast iron pipes which had been in the ground for about 50 years.

It was considered, however, that the source, even with the acquisition of additional land was difficult to protect from pollution, and the quantity of water was insufficient to meet the growing demands of the village and the proposed extension to Lower Llanboidy Village. The proposals were, therefore, abandoned.

Plans of a proposed scheme to supply Cwmfelin Mynach Village had been completed when this decision was reached in connection with Llanboidy. The source which it was proposed to acquire to supply Cwmfelin Mynach is sufficient to supply the two villages, and it was decided to prepare plans of an amended scheme in which the two villages would be supplied from this source. Plans and other details of the amended scheme were complete and ready for submission to the Ministry of Health in September when the war broke out and no further action was taken. The Council propose carrying out this scheme as soon as approval is obtained after cessation of hostilities.

Parish of Conwil.

Active steps have been taken to find suitable sources of supply for Conwil and Cwmduad Villages. Two small springs have been found and kept under observation. In the absence of larger springs within a reasonable distance of the villages gauging of these two small springs will be continued during the summer of 1940 and if satisfactory draft schemes submitted as soon as the situation will allow.

Parish of St. Clears—St. Clears Village.

During the summer of 1939 a suitable source of supply was found for the large village of St. Clears. Gaugings of the springs were taken and a draft scheme was in course of preparation at the outbreak of hostilities.

It is intended to keep the springs under close observation during the summer of 1940 so that a scheme may be submitted for consideration as soon as possible after the termination of the war.

Parish of Whitland.

It is proposed to open negotiations for the acquisition of another source of supply to suppliment the existing source. The present source has been found insufficient to meet the increasing demands of the parish.

Water Sampling.

It is essential that water supplies be examined at periodic intervals, and during the year samples from 15 supplies were submitted for analysis. The results were as follows—

Date.	Source.	Type of Examination.	Result.
18/3/39	New Pump, St. Clears.	Bacteriological.	Unsatisfactory.
28/3/39	Trelech Village Water Supply.	Chemical and Bacteriological.	Both Unsatisfactory.
6/4/39	Pantycaws Spring.	,,	Excellent.
5/5/39	Whitland Supply.	,,	Chem.—Good. Bact.—Satis.
5/5/39	Pendine Supply.	,,	Chem.—Good. Bact.—Satis.
19/5/39	Ferryside New Supply.	,,	Chem.—Good. Bact.—Satis.
19/5/39	Ferryside Old Supply.	,,	Chem.—Good. Bact.—fairly satis.
26/5/39	Cwmffrwd Goch Supply.	,,	Chem.—Good. Bact.—Satis.
9/6/39	Ferryside Old Supply (Top Chamber).	,,	Chem.—Good. Bact.—Unsatis.
9/6/39	Llanstephan Eastern Supply.	,,	Bact.—Satis. Chem.—Good.
9/6/39	Llanstephan Western Supply.	,,	Chem.—Good. Bact.—Fairly good
9/6/39	Pendine (School Camp) Water.	,,	Chem.—Satis. Bact.—Satis.
8/7/39	Corvus Terrace Well St. Clears.	,,	Chem.—Unsatis. Bact.—Unsatis.
19/7/39	Pendine Supply.	Bacteriological.	Unsatisfactory.
11/9/39	Pendine Supply.	Chemical and Bacteriological.	Chem.—Satis. Bact.—Not entirely satis.

WATER SUPPLIES—GENERAL.

Parish of Abergwili.

The position of the water supply in this village is exactly the same as in previous years. The piped supply, besides being inadequate in quantity is unsatisfactory bacteriologically, and the condition at Abergwili must be regarded as serious.

SCHOOLS.

There are 56 Elementary Schools (57 departments) in the area and there has been no change during the year.

Schools Closed for Infectious Diseases, 1939.

Name of School	Infectious Disease	Period of Closure
Llanllawddog Council	Whooping Cough	10th March—26th March.
Llanllawddog Council	Whooping Cough	3rd April—6th April.
Llanginning Council	Whooping Cough	25th July—2nd August.
Alma Council	Whooping Cough	13th Septtember—17th Sept.
Nantgaredig Council	Chickenpox	9th October—22nd October.

HOUSING.

During the year the Council erected new houses on three sites:—

(1) Maesgwyn Housing Estate—Pontyates.
(2) Ismyrddin Housing Site—Abergwili.
(3) Heol Tabernacl Site—Cefneithin.

It is hoped that all the houses on these sites will be completed early in the coming year. Families at present living under either insanitary or overcrowded conditions will be housed on the new housing estates.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The area is divided into three sections, each of which is supervised by a Sanitary Inspector. Air Raid Precautions work has caused many interruptions in the normal services of the inspectors, particularly so since the outbreak of hostilities in September.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

In November, an Order known as the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1939, was brought into force by the Ministry of Health. Under this Order Measles and Whooping Cough became compulsorily notifiable.

The number of notifications received under the Public Health Act, 1936, was 73, and the number of notifications received under Measles and Whooping Cough was 26.

Diphetheria and Scarlet Fever accounted for 57 of the cases, 34 cases of diphtheria and 3 of Scarlet Fever were isolated in the Tumble Isolation Hospital.

Isolation of Infectious Diseases Cases During 1939.

Disease.	1938		1939	
	No. of Notifications.	No. Admitted to Hospital.	No. of Notifications.	No. Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever ...	26	4	17	3
Diphtheria ...	20	15	40	34
Erysipelas ...	5	1	5	2
Pneumonia .	4	0	9	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	14	0
Measles ...	0	0	12	0
Total ..	55	20	99	39

Immunisation Against Diphtheria.

During the year no immunsation against diphtheria was carried out in the Rural Districts, but it is hoped to introduce a comprehensive scheme in the coming year.

Licences held in the Rural District Area under the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936.

No. of Tuberculin Tested Licences—102.
No. of Accredited Licences—466.
No. of Pasteurised Licences—2.

Milk Sampling.

Sampling of ungraded milk was carried out by your inspectors, whilst sampling of tuberculin tested and accredited milk was done by the County Council Officials.

(a) No. of Tuberculin Tested Milk samples sent for bacteriological examination—337

(b) No. of Accredited Milk Samples sent for bacteriological examination—1,221.

(c) No. of Ungraded Milk Samples—30.
No. of Ungraded Milk Samples satisfactory—15.
No. of Ungraded Milk Samples unsatisfactory—15.
No. of Samples found containing Tubercle Bacilli—0
No. of Ungraded Milk Samples examined for Tubercle Bacilli—1.

50% of the Ungraded Milk Samples were unsatisfactory.

Meat Inspection.

Since the outbreak of hostilities in September, the abattoir in Carmarthen has become the Central place for slaughtering, all other slaughterhouses in the Rural Disrict being closed. The Sanitary Inspectors attend at the abattoir at stated intervals and carry out inspection of carcases slaughtered.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed if known		Not	Avail ble		
Number inspected ...	529	161	127	1779	405
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcases condemned	...	...	...	...	17
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	30	5	..	27	...
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	5·3%	3 1%	.	·30%	4·2%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcases condemned	5	...	...	..	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	...	...	...	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	6·9%	...	...	...	·46%

Tuberculosis.

During the year 24 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified.

Respiratory.—Males—12. Females—8.
Non-Respiratory.—Males—3. Females 1.

Deaths.

Respiratory.—Males—7. Females—3.
Non-Respiratory.—Males—1. Females—2.

New Cases of, and Mortality from, Tuberculosis, 1939.

Age Period. In years	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-15	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
15-25	3	5	0	0	1	0	0	0
25-35	3	0	1	1	2	0	0	0
35-45	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	0
45-55	4	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
55-65	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	12	8	3	1	7	3	1	2

Rates per 1,000 Population of Notifications and Deaths.

Year.	Notifications (New Cases)	Deaths
1934	1·64	1·01
1935	1·09	0·91
1936	1·19	1 08
1937	1·31	0 92
1938	0·75	0·54
1939	0·87	0·47

(VI.) SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA

Nature of Visit or Inspection.	Llangendeirne District.	Carmarthen District.	St. Clears District.	Total
GENERAL SANITATION.				
Water Supplies	57	42	60	159
Drainage	190	36	60	286
Offensive Trades	1	...	37	38
Tents, Vans, Sheds	22	15	28	65
Factories	5	...	...	5
Workshops	3	...	...	3
Workplaces	...	...	...	...
Bakehouses	8	2	...	10
Public Conveniences	16	6	15	37
Refuse Collection	38	30	65	133
Refuse Disposal	28	...	...	28
Rats and Mice	13	6	78	97
Schools	3	...	12	15
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	39	..	126	165
Stables and Pigeries	4	...	...	4
Fried Fish Shops	1	...	..	1
A.R.P. Visits	345	160	..	505
Milk Sampling	17	4	10	31
Cockle Sampling	11	...	..	11
Miscellaneous Food Visits	1	..	..	1
HOUSING.				
Under Public Health Acts.				
Number of houses inspected	20	32	...	52
Visits paid to above houses	124	32	...	156
Under Housing Acts.				
Number of houses inspected	53	117	111	292
Visits paid to above houses	89	117	111	317
Overcrowding.				
Number of houses inspected	36	12	.	48
Visits paid to above houses	36	12	...	48
Verminous Premises.				
Number of houses inspected	...	1	...	1
Visits paid to above houses	...	1	...	1
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	28	...	.	28
INFECTIOUS DISEASE.				
Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease ...	28	38	8	74
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits ...	35	2	...	37
No. of rooms disinfected	12	22	...	34
No. of times Steam Disinfector used ...	...	1	...	1
MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.				
Inspection of Meat and Meat Shops.				
No. of Slaughterhouses in area	9	7	15	31
No. of Slaughterhouses visited	9	7	15	31
No. of visits made to above Slaughterhouses ...	181	80	642	903
No. of visits to Shops and Stalls... ...	3	25	...	28
No. of visits to butchers	2	...	...	2

Nature of Visit of Inspection.	Llangendeirne District.	Carmarthen District.	St. Clears District.	Total
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.	(2,500 in whole District)			
No. of producers in area	...	...	..	..
No. of retail purveyors in area	42	16	...	58
No. of visits to cowsheds	339	103	295	737
No. of new cowsheds provided	1	5	..	6
No. of cowsheds reconditioned	15	12	..	27
Visits to Dairies and Milk Shops	7	..	..	7
NOTICES SERVED.				
Under the Housing Acts.				
No. of informal notices served	6	15	5	26
No. of informal notices complied with ..	1	7	3	11
No. of formal notices served	2	3	...	5
No. of formal notices complied with ...	2	3	...	5
Under the Public Health Acts.				
No. of informal notices served	18	8	6	32
No. of informal notices complied with ...	5	6	6	17
No. of formal notices served	3	..	...	3
No. of formal notices complied with ...	5	..	...	5
Under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.				
No. of informal notices served	17	43	..	60
No. of informal notices complied with ...	15	26	..	41
Closets converted to water carriage system ...	...	12	..	12